

Application No. 09/918,047
Amendment dated March 14, 2005
Reply to Office Action of December 15, 2004

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Docket No. 1232-4745

Amendments to the Claims:

Claims 1-6 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent.

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): An image reading apparatus with an image reading unit for reading image information of an original placed on one surface of an original table by scanning along the other surface of the original table, and a guide shaft provided at a position that divides the image reading unit into two regions and adapted to guide the image reading unit in a scanning direction, comprising:

a holding member extending along the image reading unit in a direction perpendicular to the guide shaft, adapted to hold the image reading unit at two ends thereof and pivotal about the guide shaft; and

a biasing ~~means~~ member, provided between the image reading unit, ~~at one of the two regions thereof~~, and said holding member at only one of the two regions, ~~for biasing adapted to bias~~ the image reading unit ~~through said holding member~~ toward the original table ~~over at only one of the two regions~~

wherein one region of the image reading unit provided with said biasing member is supported to be movable perpendicularly by said holding member.

2 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 1, wherein said holding member urges the other region of the image reading unit toward the original table by a biasing

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force of said biasing means ~~which acts on one region of the image reading unit, and member~~
transferred through a lever operation of the guide shaft to said holding member.

3 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The apparatus according to claim 2, wherein the one region
of the image reading unit is supported to be movable pivotally ~~and perpendicularly~~ by said
~~holder~~ holding member and the other region of the image reading unit is pivotally supported by
said holding member.

4 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): A method of supporting an image reading unit for reading
image information of an original placed on one surface of an original table in an image reading
apparatus by scanning along the other surface of the original table, comprising the steps of:

holding the image reading unit at two ends of a holding member, extending along
the image reading unit in a direction perpendicular to a guide shaft provided at a position that
divides the image reading unit into two regions, and pivotal about the guide shaft, while guiding
the image reading unit in a scanning direction with the guide shaft, and

biasing the image reading unit ~~through the holding member~~ toward the original
table ~~over the two regions at only one of the two regions~~ with a biasing means member provided
between the image reading unit, ~~at one of the two regions thereof,~~ and the holding member ~~at~~
only of the two regions

wherein one region of the image reading unit provided with the biasing member is
supported to be movable perpendicularly by the holding member.

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5 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method according to claim 4, wherein the holding member urges the other region of the image reading unit toward the original table by a biasing force of the biasing means which acts on one region of the image reading unit, and member transferred through a lever operation of the guide shaft to the holding member.

6 (CURRENTLY AMENDED): The method according to claim 5, wherein one region of the image reading unit is supported to be movable pivotally ~~and perpendicularly~~ by said holder the holding member and the other region of the image reading unit is pivotally supported by said the holding member.